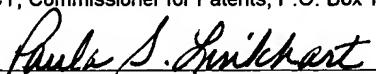


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Paula S. Linkhart

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

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§ Atty. Dkt. No.: **11899.0239.PCUS00**  
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§ US §371 national stage application of  
§ **PCT/US2004/002907 filed February 2, 2004**  
§

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND PRIORITY CLAIM**

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the specification prior to examination of this application on the merits.